

7 April 1985
MJN 8508

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT: Monthly Report--Jordan Bureau--March 1985

I. GENERAL

The Embassy's search for property sites suitable for a new Embassy compound gained momentum during the month with the arrival of a State Department site selection team from Washington. The team and Embassy jointly narrowed the list of potential sites, with the leading candidates at the moment being two tracts in Abdun, in the southeast section of Amman near the 5th Circle. The selection team will be returning to Amman in April for final determination of the Embassy site. Initial checks in Abdun indicate that the new site may result in improved reception generally.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. The Iraq-Iran war escalated once again as each side initiated artillery and missile attacks on the other's cities. The bureau remained open the night of 5-6 March to cover Baghdad media for possible reports on the intensified fighting. The "war of the cities" continued throughout the month, eventually including the capitals on both sides, while Iraqi planes maintained the pressure with more missile attacks on tankers found in the waters around Khark Island. Iran's offensive into the Hoveyzeh marshes, which was thwarted by the Iraqis after several days of fighting, turned into a rout, with the Iranians suffering heavy losses in lives and prisoners. After the outcome became evident, Iraqi media hastened to portray the battles as "decisive" and heralding an opportunity to end the war.

2. Sudanese media announced the crushing of a new anti-government plot said to have been inspired by the Muslim Brotherhood. The plot, together with announced cuts in subsidies on basic commodities and further unrest in the south, helped to spark major demonstrations in Khartoum that ultimately led to President Numayri's overthrow by the Army chief of staff. Ironically, Numayri had

Page 2
MJN 8508

named General 'Abd al-Rahman Siwar al-Dhahab to his post only three weeks earlier.

3. There were several terrorist attacks on Jordanian Embassies and Alia offices in Europe, as well as an attempted rocketing of an Alia plane which had just taken off from Athens airport. The Black September organization, which is said to have close links to Syria, claimed credit for some of the incidents.

4. The long-awaited formation of an alternative to the Palestinian mainstream PLO took place as Syrian media reported at length of the new Palestine National Salvation Front. Initial pronouncements by the Front indicate that it will closely adhere to the Syrian view on Palestinian issues.

B. Lateral Services

The Embassy Political Section updated its list of requirements for services via the ponyline circuit during the month. Twelve services bearing more on the personal interests of officers who have since been reassigned than on real needs of the Embassy were eliminated from the list of over 40 services. Because some of these requirements were for the Embassy exclusively, the overall volume of traffic received by the Bureau was slightly reduced by the changes.

III. ADMINISTRATION

STAT A. Personnel
Commo Supervisor [] received a PSI effective ✓
17 March.

B. Other

The Jordan Telecommunications Corporation announced on 28 March that telephone numbers in some areas of Amman, including that of the Embassy and Bureau, would change effective later that morning. In the case of the Embassy/Bureau, a "6" has been added as the first digit to the existing number, making the new number for the Embassy switchboard 644371.

IV. VISITS

Molly Williamson, Jordan desk officer, Dept. of State, 1 April, to express appreciation for the bureau's support

Page 3
MJN 8508

for her work, which she has found most useful. Molly is already well acquainted with Jordan Bureau as a result of a 2-year assignment at Embassy Amman.

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[Redacted]
Acting Chief, Jordan Bureau

FORTRAN BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR MARCH 1985

L. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORKAGE FILED DURING MONTH: 252,230
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORKAGE FILED DURING MONTH: 50,598
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH: 914

II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
(MINUTES OR ISSUES PER WEEK)	6375	14258	73

OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:

(PUBLISHABLE WORDS PER MONTH)

ARABIA	
JERUSALEM AL-QUDS IN ARABIC	698
JERUSALEM AL-QUDS IN ARABIC	576
JERUSALEM AL-TALIBAH IN ARABIC	0
JORDAN	
AMMAN DOMESTIC SERVICE IN ARABIC	9970
AMMAN TELEVISION SERVICE IN ARABIC	3460
AMMAN TELEVISION SERVICE IN ENGLISH S	1720
AMMAN PETRA-SABA IN ARABIC	2630
AMMAN AL-JUSTISIA IN ARABIC	6858
AMMAN AL-KHIDAR AL-USBU' IN ARABIC	0
AMMAN AL-PRAY IN ARABIC	18856
AMMAN THE JERUSALEM STAR IN ENGLISH	0
AMMAN JORDAN TIMES IN ENGLISH	7920
AMMAN SHAT AL-SHA'B IN ARABIC	9240
LEBANON	
MARJ YUYUN LEBANON VOICE OF HOPE IN ARABIC	310
MARJ YUYUN LEBANON VOICE OF HOPE IN ENGLISH	0
SUDAN	
KHARTOUM SUNA IN ARABIC	28120
KHARTOUM SUNA IN ENGLISH	7588
SYRIA	
DAMASCUS DOMESTIC SERVICE IN ARABIC	38660
DAMASCUS TELEVISION SERVICE IN ARABIC	6120
DAMASCUS SRNA IN ARABIC	9288